

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this case, and has been amended here. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim 1 has been rejected as allegedly anticipated by Masuda. This rejection is traversed with respect to the amended claim as follows.

Masuda fails to teach or disclose a magnetic field sensor having a sensing area substantially the same as the extent of each sample. Masuda does disclose a magnetic field sensor (MR1 and MR2) and further discloses a sample (see, e.g., the specimen of Fig. 8), but fails to disclose any relationship between their sizes. In fact, Masuda discloses only a general desire to have the sensor be small (column 2, lines 40-42 and lines 60-61; column 3, lines 35-36). One dimension of the size of the sample is indicated, i.e., 1.0 mm (column 6, line 57), but no other dimension is mentioned. As Masuda does discuss sizes of the two elements, but fails to describe any relation between them, it is clear that Masuda does not intend any particular relationship to hold.

It is certainly well-established that patent disclosures are not limited to the scales and formfactors disclosed, but this rule cannot be employed to allege support for each and every scale or formfactor value imaginable. If a critical scale is found, that may be the subject of invention. The current invention claims a particular relationship between sensor size and sample size. And this particular relationship is not shown in the prior art. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejection should be withdrawn and the claim passed to issue.

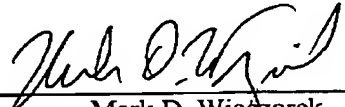
Claim 1 also stands rejected for double-patenting. Applicants will file a timely terminal disclaimer upon allowance of the case.

If the Examiner feels a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the case, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

A petition for extension of time accompanies this filing, along with a credit card form to pay for the petition fee. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if additional fees are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1187.

Respectfully submitted,

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